## RANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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kind of parallels what goes on in the Appropriations Committee. You can look at things broadly and say...and have some kind of concept of what money you want to get to and everybody may agree you want to get down to some figure or thereabouts, but then individually, as you take each item, there may not be a majority do anything about that particular item. Because as you examine them one by one, they seem, at least to a majority of people examining each one, worthwhile. And I suspect that if you took this \$80 million and broke it down piece by piece we would have a similar debate. I wanted to talk about the Legislative Council a little bit, not because it's a big item but just because it's somewhat symbolic of these smaller pieces and trying to break them down further and the kinds of debates you get into. But in Senator Erdman's amendment, he cuts in the second year \$795,000 from the Legislative Council's budget, and that's going to equate to someplace between 15 and 25 jobs cut. And those jobs cut, where do they come from? We don't have that many in the Research Division and those that are there, at least of them, are involved in program evaluation, which is very understaffed the way it is. It would be hard to get much out of the Research Division. You can't take committee counsel away. Every committee needs its counsel; every committee needs its They need those two people on each committee basically function. So when the discussion in Appropriations got around to, well, where do you take this many people from, what would you do, well, you come back to the senator's staff, the two people that each of us has individually, and some of those would have to go. So the thought was, well, how do you do Well, they don't all need to go, not 1 from each of the 49, but a bunch of them need to go. So maybe the freshmen don't have research assistants anymore. Since they're brand new, they don't use them as effectively or need them as much as other senators. But, on the other hand, that's not fair. senator should get the same help. But it's going to be somehow from the senators' staffs that these cuts would have to come. Then the discussion went over to term limits. Legislation is core of everything. It is the beginning place of everything. If you don't have good legislation you have a lot of litigation in the courts and you have a lot of uncertainty and poor interpretations from the agencies because they don't have good directions. And it just ripples through society if